

ACTRESS NATASHA RICHARDSON DEAD AT 45, P7

Celebrity Buzz

SJP seeing psychic to repair rift

pg 18



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Coaster is runner-up for next PM

CONTEST A 23-year-old from Dartmouth just missed out on being Canada's Next Great Prime Minister.

Robert Marsh finished as the runner-up of the CBC series last night, placing second to Amy Marlene Robichaud of Calgary. Robichaud walks away with \$50,000 and several paid internships.

Marsh, a former student council president at Prince Andrew High School who also spent time as mascot of the Halifax Mooseheads, was trying to earn the highest percentage of votes from the studio audience.

Each of the four finalists faced debates and challenges last night, all under the watchful eye of the four judges — former prime ministers Brian Mulroney, Joe Clark, Kim Campbell and Paul Martin.

Marsh now lives in Toronto where he works for an insurance company.

METRO HALIFAX

Riding the Recession

Now through the end of March, Metro will share advice on how to cut down on expenses and navigate your way through the recession.

Food

- More local meals for a steal, pg 14

Tomorrow

- How the recession is changing the musical landscape for fans, music publications and even TV.



Local pg 2

Trying to ban the ban

Sports pg 10

Huskies capture 1st title in 7 years

Fashion

Red hot in red

KEITH BEATY/TORONTO STAR NEWS SERVICE



A model presents a dress from Vancouver-based designer Cheri Milaney's fall/winter 2009 collection yesterday as part of Toronto Fashion Week. More coverage, pg 15

Memorial for 17 lost

Service spoke of perilous way of life working at sea

They lined the stairs leading to balconies, filled the church aisles and stood all along the walls, the seats having been filled at least an hour before the service last night at the Roman Catholic Basilica of St. John the Baptist — more than 1,000 people coming to pay respects after a monumental tragedy.

It was a deeply spiritual and sombre prayer service in St. John's that spoke to the horrendous perils of earning a living

at sea, but also spoke of hope for overcoming the astounding loss of life last week.

"We are gathered this evening to offer our prayers to families of passengers and crew of Cougar Helicopters Flight 491, which crashed tragically last Thursday morning," said Rev. Edison Wiltshire, director of EZRA Chaplaincy, which attended to the families in the wake of the crash.

Salvation Army Lt.-Col. Raymond Rowe, president of the council of churches,

remarked Newfoundlanders and Labradorians have been drawing their living from the sea for 500 years — from fishing and sealing and other enterprises, and lately from the oil and gas industry.

"Inherent in this way of life is danger," Rowe said.

And the province was sadly reminded of that peril last Thursday when Flight 491 went down at 9:48 a.m. on its way to Hibernia and Sea Rose.

The names of all 17 who died aboard the flight, including 47-year-old Ken MacRae of Greenwood, were read out at the ecumenical service, and there was an outpouring of wishes for recovery for the sole survivor, Robert Decker.

Yesterday's service drew family members and friends of those aboard the helicopter, along with dignitaries such as Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Newfoundland Premier Danny Williams and federal Defence Minister Peter MacKay.

ST. JOHN'S TELEGRAM

3,045 complaints for Metro Transit

PAUL MCLEOD
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"Considering we have about 25 million transactions between a bus driver and a passenger per year, the number in that case is quite small."

Deborah Story, HRM

Alleged racial profiling and fake seal clubbing aside, there were a lot of complaints against Metro Transit drivers last year.

In total there were 3,045 complaints against bus drivers — an average of about eight per day.

Of course, the majority of complaints were of a much different nature

than the above listed high-profile incidents that have put Metro Transit in the headlines these past two weeks.

Nine hundred and twenty-three of the complaints

were about driving, such as cutting someone off or breaking too fast.

The other 2,122 were based on bus driver behaviour, which encompasses any time a passenger

didn't like how a bus driver handled something.

While seeming like a lot, HRM communications manager Deborah Story said the numbers aren't bad when put in perspective.

"Considering we have about 25 million transactions between a bus driver and a passenger per year, the number in that case is quite small when you compare it to the total opportunities for

problems," she said.

Story said Metro Transit tries to followup on all complaints, but sometimes it doesn't have enough information or the complainant doesn't want any action taken.

"The type of things we experienced in the last couple weeks, we don't get much of that," she said.

ShareYourViews

halifaxletters@metronews.ca

A public lecture examining the role of hope and spirituality in the treatment of cancer will be hosted by Cancer Care Nova Scotia on Tuesday, April 7. The lecture will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Royal Bank Lecture Theatre of the Halifax Infirmary on Summer Street. METRO HALIFAX

Local



Raffi joins sustainability talk tonight

CBC Radio host Jian Ghomeshi is in Halifax tonight to lead a discussion on sustainability. The Q host will head a panel comprised of singer-songwriter Raffi Cavoukian, left, Green party Leader Elizabeth May, Oberlin College professor David Orr and Just Us! founder Jeff Moore at Dalhousie's Ondaatje Auditorium, McCain Building (6135 University Ave.) at 7 p.m.

METRO HALIFAX

Seeking ban to parking ban

PAUL MCLEOD
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You've got to fight for your right to parking.

That's what some HRM councillors plan to do to prevent Halifax's blanket winter parking ban from returning next year.

The controversial ban ended Tuesday night after the city collected more than \$436,000 from handing out 17,468 tickets.

Municipal staff said the ban, which prevents cars from parking on the roads overnight regardless of the weather, is necessary for snow removal. But it causes lots of frustration for residents without driveways and bar owners who say it hurts business.

And some councillors want to see things change for next year.

"I'm certainly going to put forth the effort to see if we can change this," said Downtown Halifax Coun. Dawn Sloane.

"We pay high taxes to live in the downtown and we are the ones who fund a lot of projects in the municipality. But we are being dinged every time we turn around when it comes to parking."

Sloane presented a mo-

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX



Coun. Dawn Sloane poses in front of a row of parked cars on Creighton Street. Sloane isn't a fan of the overnight parking ban and would like to see it dropped next year.

tion several weeks ago to kick off a set of public consultations on changing the ban. Council approved the motion, though no schedule has been set up yet.

Sloane is promoting a system where cars can only park on one side of the

street one night while the other is plowed. The next night the side would switch to clear the other side. Another option is simply banning parked cars in the times after a snowfall.

But the decisionulti-

mately is going to come down to residents, according to Connaught-Quinpool Coun. Jennifer Watts.

She thinks there are some problems with the winter parking ban, and will be basing her vote on what the public has to say.

"I would be very interested in sitting down and evaluating what happened this year with residents, with traffic staff and with police and figuring out, is there another option that we could have to a total parking ban?" she said.

News in brief

SUSPECTS Halifax Regional Police continues its search for three suspects after a man was stabbed and another woman sprayed with pepper spray at Penhorn Mall in Dartmouth on Tuesday evening. The incident took place at about 8 p.m. in the rear parking lot of the mall. The male victim was taken to the QEII Health Sciences Centre with non-life threatening injuries. The suspects are all white males. One, about 22 to 23 years of age wore a brown suede jacket. The other two suspects were about 18 or 19, with one wearing a white ball cap. Police say the act wasn't random as one of the suspects was known to the victim.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY Twenty-two people were locked up for the night on St. Patrick's Day by Halifax Regional Police for being drunk in a public place. Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Theresa Rath said the number is high for a weekday, but falls in line with the normal weekend numbers.

METRO HALIFAX

Canada has lessons to teach new world: MP

JON TATTRIE
for Metro Halifax



MP Ken Dryden speaks at Saint Mary's University yesterday. Dryden is touring universities across the country to talk with students about Canada.

A globalized, Obama-age world needs a bigger Canada to match the bigger challenges, Ken Dryden said in Halifax yesterday.

The hockey legend and member of Parliament from Ontario was speaking to students at Saint Mary's University about the need for a "new story" of Canada.

"If you have the wrong story, you get the wrong answer," the MP for York Central told the crowd. "Because of our French and English past, of different languages and different cultures, religions and laws, because we have people inside our borders today from almost everywhere, we are a country that has learned to live together."

As many other countries, particularly the U.S., come to

embrace a collaborative rather than unilateral approach to international issues, they will turn to "dull" Canada for lessons. But lacking an inspirational leader like U.S. president Barack Obama, Canadians operate under a low ceiling that lim-

its our economic, ecological, social and international ambitions, he said.

Dryden, who won six Stanley Cups in his eight years with the Montreal Canadiens, pointed to the old "I am Canadian" beer commercials as an example

of what's wrong with Canadian identity.

"When they faced the challenge of 'What next?' they had no followup. The campaign hadn't really been about 'I am Canadian,' but more about 'I am not American,'" he said.

He asked how the world would be a poorer place without Canada, citing our vast natural resources and our immigration-fired innovation, but focused on Canada's history of finding peaceful solutions to conflict within our borders and beyond as our great gift.

"We have no history of civil war. On matters that might have led to the break up of our country, we held two referendums. We have in our federal government a major party whose purpose is an independent Quebec," he said. "It may be the only real obligation of Canadian citizenship: We get along."

Man charged with criminal harassment

PHILIP CROUCHER
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COURT A 42-year-old man was in court yesterday facing several charges for allegedly pointing a pellet gun at a nine-year-old boy from the window of his residence on the 100 block of Melrose Avenue in Fairview on Tuesday night.

According to Halifax Regional Police spokeswoman Theresa Rath, the boy was playing outside at his ground floor apartment across the street, and when looking towards the man's window, saw a gun pointed at him. The boy immediately ran home and told his mother, who called police.

"We attended and dealt with the individual. He was quite belligerent with us," Rath said. "We determined it was in fact a pellet gun and he was arrested and brought to our booking facility where he was held until court (yesterday) morning."

At Halifax provincial court yesterday, Kevin W. Snow was arraigned on charges of criminal harassment, using an imitation firearm while committing an indictable offence and possession of a weapon for a dangerous purpose.

Snow has been released on recognizance and is back in court on June 1 for election and plea.

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Video Terror suspect returns to jail claiming bail conditions were tearing his family apart at metronews.ca/canada

Blogs Linda Lundstrom's comeback continues at Toronto Fashion Week

Video Prime Minister Harper defends optimistic outlook on economy at metronews.ca/canada

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 11, 27, 29, 33, 34 & 44 Bonus 36
These results are not official.



Three communities get economic development funding

Three Pictou County communities received ACOA funding yesterday to promote economic development. Trenton got \$40,000 for its downtown revitalization project, the River John Community Action Society \$19,000 for developing the riverfront area of the village and the Harbour Authority of Pictou landing \$22,000. **METRO HALIFAX**

local 3

Don't write off winter: Expert

Climatologist says Halifax gets 19 per cent of its snowfall in spring

JON TATTRIE
For Metro Halifax

cent of your snowfall happens after the first day of spring," Phillips reveals.

The man nicknamed "the father of the long-term forecast" adds that two-thirds of our Mays have snowfall.

He's predicting cooler conditions over the next 30 days.

"Be a little more patient, get through March and a chunk of April, and then we can see the days we can call that winter is at an end."

The problem is even if warm air drifts up from the south, the cold Atlantic refrigerates it.

Once here, it's got to get to work melting the icebergs floating down the St. Lawrence and burning off the leftover snow before it can heat the air.

Flurries are predicted for

"Don't put away the snow shovel. There has never been an April without snow in Halifax."

Dave Phillips,
senior climatologist

A collective winter fatigue grips Haligonians in March, causing us to think the city ought to be hot and snow-free.

"If the past is a guide to the future, then don't put away the snow shovel. There has never been an April without snow in Halifax. In fact annually, 19 per



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Student Sébastien Labelle juggles in the warm sunshine yesterday as he and other members of Students Mobilizing for Action on Campus (SMAC) distribute information on the Dalhousie campus.

Sunday and then we can expect "early maple syrup weather," with temperatures creeping above freezing in the day, but falling back into the deep freeze overnight.

The ocean gives us cold

springs, but slowly warms over the summer. "You pay for it now, but you gain it in the fall," Phillips says.

"If there's one thing we're united on in this country, it's the need to

end winter," the weather guru concludes.

He does have a bit of good news for Maritimers.

"We haven't been bombarded by flower counts from Victoria. They've been buried in snow."

No lightweight Pointers from a boxing champ



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Halifax Rainmen guard Zach Ramey, left, gets some boxing pointers yesterday from Canadian light heavyweight champion Jason Naugler at Palooka's Boxing Club. Several Rainmen players including Jimmy Twyman and John Strickland learned the ropes from Naugler, Tyson Cave and boxing instructors at the club.

NDP wants tax credit to stem job losses

JON TATTRIE
For Metro Halifax



CREDIT The NDP is calling for a manufacturing-and-processing tax credit it says would help Nova Scotian communities stem job losses.

"The Atlantic Provinces Economic Council today said a decline in production and exports is having a direct impact on job losses in many Nova Scotia communities," Nova Scotia NDP Leader Darrell Dexter said in a release.

"A manufacturing and processing tax credit would help counter-balance these losses. Investing

in our communities, jobs and families is the best way to ensure all of Nova Scotia's communities are strong when the U.S. economic depression ends."

The report, released yesterday, showed further signs of economic slowdown.

It said exports and manufacturing shipments shrank in the fourth quarter of 2008, predicting that trend would continue, leading to more closures in the forestry, auto parts and agriculture sectors.

Dexter said an NDP government would introduce a provincial 10 per cent manufacturing-and-processing tax credit.

Corner store sales of booze opposed

UNION The Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union stated yesterday in a release they remain opposed to the provincial government allowing beer and wine to be sold in corner stores.

On Monday, the president of the Independent Food Stores Association Sid Chedrawe asked for such a move to help boost revenues, but the government dismissed the notion.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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In the latest twist in a saga that has been brewing since two auto plants in Windsor, Ont., shut down early last week, about a dozen workers occupied the Aradco plant last night. They have welded the doors shut from the inside and say they will not leave until they get what they are owed. **CBC NEWS ONLINE**

Canada



Syrup on par with whisky

Ontario's maple syrup producers have struck liquid gold. Following four years of poor production in rival Quebec and a surge in overseas popularity, syrup prices have risen by as much as 30 per cent. As a result, a bottle of moderately priced pure maple syrup costs about the same as a bottle of another Canadian delicacy, rye whisky.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Harper vows no GST hikes

Prime Minister Stephen Harper yesterday warned Canadians could end up paying more taxes under a different government, suggesting his opponents might reverse his rollbacks on the GST.

Harper deflected recent criticism of his government's economic policies by former Bank of Canada David Dodge, who predicted a long recession, but said Ottawa could help reverse the deficit by, for example, raising the GST by a percentage point once the economy begins to recover.

"That's just wrong," Harper told a Toronto press conference. He added the GST cuts — that lowered the GST from seven per cent to five per cent in two steps — were an important boost to the economy. He cited the cuts as the key

MARK BLINCH/REUTERS



Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper visits small business owners Juan Roman, left, and Axel Arvizu, right, at their restaurant yesterday in Toronto.

reason Canada was "one of the last major economies to go into recession."

Said Harper: "Let me assure you, while our opponents may favour raising the GST back up, this government will not do that."

Harper also lashed out at opposition parties for doing nothing more than criticize.

"Of course, we've had no alternative suggestions from anyone on any other course of action to take,"

he said.

"I think the opposition simply attacking the Canadian economy adds nothing. I mean, we all know we have difficult circumstances."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Baird may visit Ethiopia to help jailed Canadian

TERROR TRIAL Federal Transport Minister John Baird, who has a large Somali population in his Ottawa West-Nepean riding, is considering going to Ethiopia on behalf of Canadian Bashir Makhtal, who is being held in jail in Addis Ababa.

But his decision hinges on what happens during a Makhtal court appearance today.

Makhtal, a Canadian citi-

zen who lived in Toronto for close to a decade, was rendered to Ethiopia in January 2007 and has been held in prison for two years.

The Ethiopian government alleges that Makhtal is a member of a terrorist organization an allegation that Makhtal has denied.

"I'll wait to see what happens," Baird told the Toronto Star.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

BUS CRASH A Montreal man was killed in a bus crash in northeast Argentina, and two other Quebecers were injured. The crash killed three people and injured 13.

ECONOMY The Saskatchewan government has tabled a surplus budget with tax cuts and money for roads, hospitals and schools.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

— The 2nd Annual —

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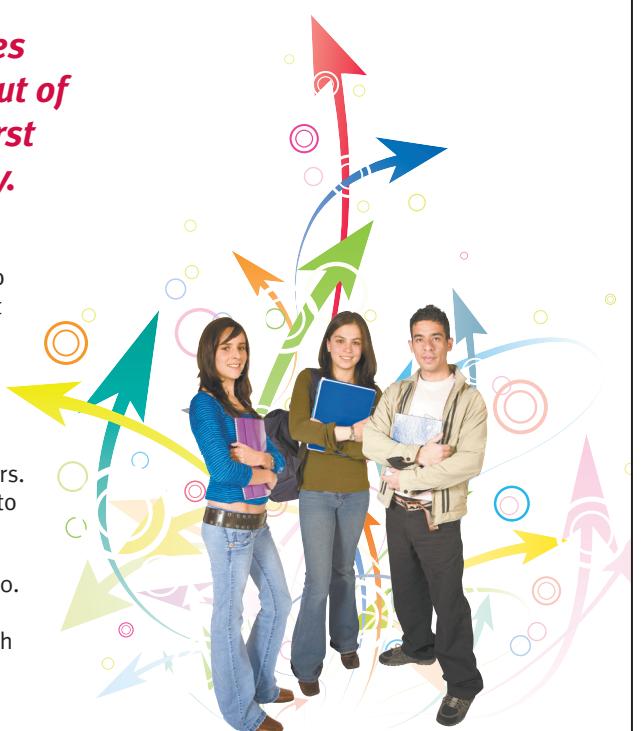
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Moody's chops ratings on Manulife units

Moody's chopped ratings on several units of Manulife Financial Corp., Canada's largest insurer, yesterday after the company reported its first ever quarterly loss last month. It said the rating outlook is negative and the move will affect about \$5.6 billion of securities. **REUTERS**

Quebec Budget to be released

MATTHEW BELANGER/REUTERS

Quebec Finance Minister Monique Jerome-Forget smiles as she shows a mock copy of her budget during a photo-op at her office in Quebec City yesterday. Jerome-Forget will unveil her budget today.

Suspected car thief dies after being shot by police

KRISTA SYLVESTER
Metro Canada



CALGARY A covert police operation turned deadly at a southwest Calgary carwash early yesterday morning.

Undercover members of the High Enforcement Auto Theft Team (HEATT) were attempting to arrest a suspected car thief as he pulled into the 24-hour Western Pride Car Wash. According to Calgary Police Association president John Dooks, instead of surrendering, the man allegedly used his car as a weapon and continuously rammed into the police officers when they boxed him into one of the bays.

"The officer could not have allowed this person to escape; he would have endangered other drivers and the public."

John Dooks, Calgary Police Association

The man was unarmed and arrested without incident. Dooks said the officer who fired the shots was one of his former partners, a veteran with at least 18 years of experience.

Obama businesses in name dispute

TORONTO The day Barack Obama was inaugurated as U.S. president, Emmanuel Debass opened a restaurant in a Toronto neighbourhood and, as TV crews watched, named it the Obama Café. Now Debass is threatening to sue Angesom Fitzsimberhan, his neighbour and owner of the Internet café, if he doesn't revoke the name change. "He's a copycat," Debass said yesterday.

A month later, on Feb. 19, when Obama visited Ottawa, an Internet café

two doors away changed its name to Obama Cybernet Limited.

Now Debass is threatening to sue Angesom Fitzsimberhan, his neighbour and owner of the Internet café, if he doesn't revoke the name change. "He's a copycat," Debass said yesterday.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Terror suspect prefers jail

Bail not worth harassment by investigators, man tells judge

A judge agreed to send accused terrorist Mohammad Mahjoub back to jail after Mahjoub told a Toronto courtroom yesterday that he prefers life behind bars to the harassment by federal investigators his family faced while he was on bail.

"I have to go back to jail to protect my family," Mahjoub told Justice Simon Noel in Federal Court.

Noel appeared to ago-

"I have to go back to jail to protect my family."

nize over the prospect of ending Mahjoub's time with his family under strict bail conditions before ordering him back into custody.

Mahjoub was jailed in June 2000 on suspicions of belonging to an organization with close ties to al-Qaida and held indefinitely

Mohammad Mahjoub

ly on a security certificate. In 2007, a Federal Court judge ordered him freed on bail with strict conditions pending a review of his case.

His wife, Mona El Fouli, told the court yesterday her husband has carefully followed the strict conditions of his bail, but said

the stress on her three children has been too great.

Agents from the Canadian Security Intelligence Service have been tapping the family's phones, opening their mail and photographing their family outings.

El Fouli said it was stressful for her to supervise her husband and try to raise their children in a normal, positive atmosphere.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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The U.S., in a reversal of Bush administration policy, will sign on to a UN declaration that calls for the decriminalization of homosexuality, the State Department said. **REUTERS**

World



Russia bans seal hunting

Russia said yesterday it had banned the hunting of baby seals, weeks after Prime Minister Vladimir Putin called it a "bloody industry." Seals inhabit Russia's White Sea region in the Arctic. As in Canada and Norway, hunters target the fluffy baby seals — also known as "whitecoats" — for their highly valued snow-white fur — in early spring and club thousands to death.

REUTERS

Senate included bonus payouts in bill: Dodd

BAILOUT The head of AIG said yesterday he was trying desperately to prevent the company from collapsing when he allowed the payment of \$165 million US in bonuses that have stoked outrage stretching from the White House to Main Street.

Senate Banking committee chairman Christopher Dodd also told CNN yesterday that he added language to the federal stimulus bill to make sure contracts for bonuses at companies receiving federal bailout money stayed in place.

On Tuesday, Dodd de-

nied that he had anything to do with adding the language, which has been used by officials at AIG to justify paying millions of dollars in bonuses to executives. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

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Battle raging in Sri Lanka

More than 640 rescued: Military

Sri Lanka's navy rescued more than 640 people who fled the island's war zone in a clutch of small boats as Tamil Tiger rebels opened fire, the military said yesterday, but tens of thousands remained trapped.

The military has the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) cornered in 28 square kilometres of the Indian Ocean island's northeast, and is battling to deal a final blow to their 25-year separatist rebellion.

At least 18 more rebels were killed in the latest clashes in the shrinking war zone, a military official said yesterday.

The UN children's agency UNICEF said hundreds of children were among the 2,800 civilians who have been killed in fighting already, and warned that many more were still at risk. The government calls the figures unsubstantiated.

The United Nations said last week the Tigers were

Tigers listed

- The Tigers are on U.S., EU, Canadian and Indian terrorist lists largely because of their extensive use of suicide attacks during a civil war that erupted in 1983 as a fight for a separate state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

forcibly holding thousands of people inside the war zone and making them fight or build defences.

The LTTE says people are staying out of choice. Nearly 44,000 have fled so far this year, almost 5,000 of them since Saturday.

Yesterday, 643 people in 35 small boats escaped a no-fire zone after navy sailors chased away LTTE boats that were firing on them, military spokesman Brigadier Udaya Nanayakkara said. The Tigers could not be reached for comment.

REUTERS

Madagascar New leader



Madagascar's new president, Andry Rajoelina, greets his supporters at Antananarivo city centre yesterday after ousting Marc Ravalomanana. A deal for South Korea's Daewoo Logistics to lease more than one million hectares of Madagascar to grow food crops is off, the island's new leader said.

News in brief

COURTS Josef Fritzl reversed his plea and admitted guilt on all charges yesterday after watching the daughter he locked up and raped for 24 years describe her ordeal in 11 hours of video testimony. The 73-year-old Austrian is likely to face the rest of his life behind bars.

RELIGION The Vatican yesterday defended Pope Benedict's opposition to the use of condoms to stop the spread of AIDS as scientists and politicians criticized it as unrealistic and dangerous. Benedict, in Africa, said on Tuesday that condoms "increase" AIDS.

REUTERS

Richardson dead

Actress passes just days after ski accident

Natasha Richardson, a member of Britain's Redgrave acting dynasty, died yesterday at age 45 after suffering a severe brain injury in a skiing accident in Montreal earlier this week.

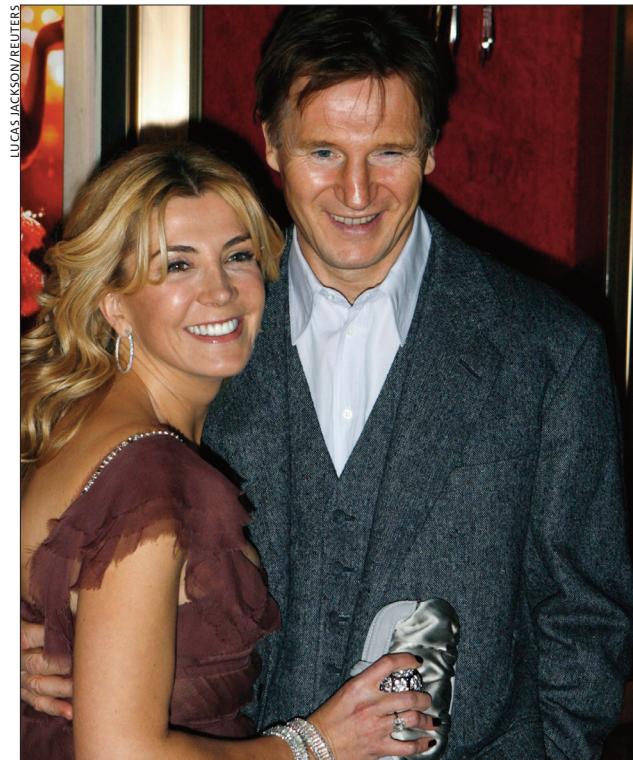
Richardson had been hospitalized in New York since Tuesday, surrounded by her husband, actor Liam Neeson, her two sons, Michael, 13, and Daniel Jack, 12, and members of her immediate family including her mother, actress Vanessa Redgrave.

Richardson was injured Monday when she fell on a beginners' slope during a private ski lesson at the Mont Tremblant resort, about 75 miles north of Montreal.

A spokeswoman for the resort said she appeared to be in good condition after the fall, but her instructor called a ski patrol to take her to the bottom of the hill.

About an hour later, she complained of a severe headache and was admitted to a local medical facility before eventually being transferred to a Montreal hospital where she was diagnosed with severe brain trauma.

Tuesday afternoon, with Neeson by her side, she was flown to New York and admitted to the Lenox Hill Hospital, where her family rushed to her bedside in her final hours.



British actress Natasha Richardson and husband, actor Liam Neeson, arrive at the premiere of the film Dreamgirls in New York in this picture taken Dec. 4, 2006.

Richardson followed her Oscar-winning mother and her father, the late film director Tony Richardson, into a career on stage and screen in England and the United States.

She was perhaps best known worldwide for film roles that included playing a young Lindsay Lohan's mother in the 1998 remake of The Parent Trap and for her role in the Jennifer Lopez romantic com-

edy Maid in Manhattan. Her latest movie role was as a strict English boarding school headmistress in the 2008 teen comedy Wild Child.

Richardson and Neeson, 56, worked together on the 1994 Jodie Foster drama Nell. The couple married in July 1994 and had Michael and Daniel Jack.

Her first marriage, to filmmaker Robert Fox, lasted two years. **REUTERS**



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Comment

Putting love on layaway

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

've always been leery of the contingency proposal, that semi-joking suggestion made, perhaps to a friend or an ex or someone else fondly regarded but deemed unfit for current consumption, "Hey, if we both turn 40 and neither of us is married, we should hook up."

Something always struck me as somewhat insulting about this arrangement, which is generally floated when 40 seems a long way off. In that distant future, the reasoning goes, the fear of dying alone might overcome the just-friends failure of chemistry, the countervailing fear of tanking a friendship or whatev-

er else is keeping the so-called couple from coupling right now.

If it's not a left-handed compliment, it's certainly an ambidextrous one. The equivalent of saying we have so much in common that you just might just be the one for me, but you come second to everyone else in the world I haven't met yet. So I'll keep your resumé on file. If nobody good shows up, you're in!

As a rule, any wrinkle of relationship behaviour that actually appeared in an episode of Friends (as I believe this did) should be viewed with great suspicion as a stunt to be tried at home. Is not marry-

ing really so unthinkable?

But a few friends of mine have said this to one another, however frivolously, and eventually 40 beckons from less impossibly far away.

Discussions occurred recently between two of these friends. It wouldn't be appropriate to air these sensitive negotiations in the media. (I already feel a little wrong about exploiting them for a column, but a deadline's a deadline.) Let's call

them, for the sake of our continued friendship, uh, "him" and "her."

Both are successful and attractive, not obviously deformed in character or dragging any disproportionate

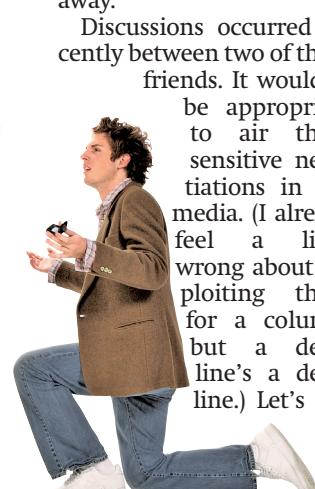
load of disappointments. This is no nostalgic Facebook booty call from a half-remembered high school acquaintance. They just can't seem to dismiss the idea of each other as the one that maybe got away.

They've remained uncommonly close over the years, and commiserated as things didn't work out with other people. Did the constant presence of such a close, and oppositely sexed, friend play a role in all that not working out with the others? It's possible.

The irony in a relationship so much thought about and never consummated is that as years go by, it can seem a bigger and bigger deal. What was supposed to be a nice safe backup plan now seems emotionally perilous itself.

It's always going to take a leap, no matter how long you perch at the edge.

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



Views

Women should seize the power of choice

InStep

Christine Williams

International Women's Day fuelled countless followup discussion forums about women's liberation.

A couple of them grabbed my attention: the Vatican singling out the washing machine as the greatest liberator, and given this year's IWD anti-violence theme, the disclosure that Rihanna reunited with Chris Brown after an alleged beating. She was called a poor role model. Women face a myriad of choices and it's a great travesty when we fail to appreciate the power of choice. Ann Coulter's rendition of the single-mom

curse in her latest controversial book: "Guilty" crudely highlighted this.

In it, she condemns the modern portrayal of the single unwed mother as the innocent, perennial victim, denouncing them for foisting a host of costly social ills upon society.

Although, many of Coulter's foes would take fiendish delight in imagining her burnt at the stake, there is a message to decipher in her acrid approach to confronting the poignant social malady of single motherhood: the misuse of the power of choice.

The choices North American women have today came at great toil and we have reason to celebrate the history of our sisterhood. Women were key players in the 19th century

abolitionist movement. The first organizers for women's rights started by working perilously with black women who had escaped slavery and wanted to learn how to read and write. Yet it was a momentous display of unity for the rights of all women. In 1848, the Declaration of Sentiments was finally ratified, proclaiming men and women to be created equal, giving women legal, social and voting rights.

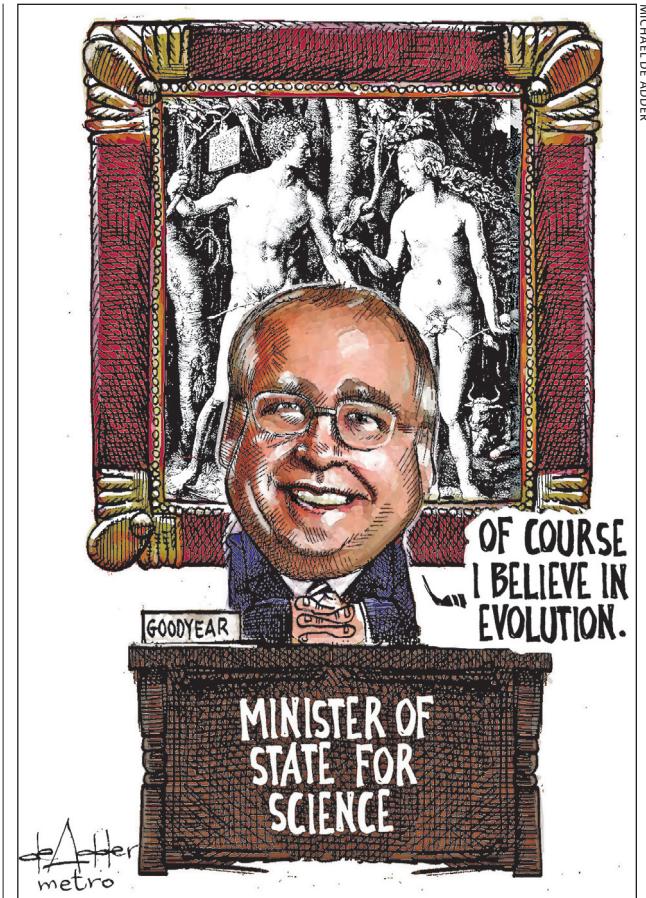
We've come a long way baby, because now we can choose. Recently, I was horrified when an older lady called our talk show — On the Line — to say that she stayed with an abusive husband for decades because one church leader

told her to. We delude and denigrate ourselves by allowing others to define our self worth, including celebrities like Rihanna.

Young women's role models were meant to be those of their own household. If it's a dysfunctional one, the cycle must end somewhere. There is help for those willing to reach out from beneath the veneers of pain and pretexts in a genuine search for wholeness.

No physical invention, including the washing machine — or even law — can free someone from the shackles of the mind. Such advancements however provide opportunity that we should never take for granted: the opportunity of choice.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.



Quote of the Day

"We have got to be finding ways to get (handguns) off the streets, not handing them out as prizes."

— Liberal MP Mark Holland responding to the news a gun lobby dinner is raffling off tickets to win a Beretta semi-automatic handgun.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Worth Mentioning

What's blowin' in the wind?

Bob Dylan has sung about wind many times — winds of change, the "Idiot Wind," and the winds that hit heavy on the borderline.

But some of his California neighbours Tuesday were singing a new tune about what is blowin' in the wind from his Malibu toilet.

A family living near the 67-year-old folk and rock icon's house in the posh California beachside com-

munity of Malibu have complained to city officials about an outdoor portable toilet used by people on the compound.

Cindy and David Emmerling say the toilet wafts fumes from waste treatment chemicals, and that the smell carried by breezes from the Pacific Ocean has made their family feel ill.

A spokesman for Dylan did not return calls on his toilet.

REUTERS

Metro Online Poll Results

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Now that George W. Bush is no longer president, should the protests stop?

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Business

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

CBC OK's budget

Layoffs, asset sales still possible amid struggles

Asset sales and layoffs are still on the table at the CBC after the public broadcaster's board of directors approved its budget for the next 12 months, a CBC spokesman said yesterday.

Spokesman Marco Dube wouldn't comment further, but added that the broadcaster plans to make a more detailed announcement to its employees before the end of the month.

The CBC, like other media companies, has strug-

to slash spending.

To cope with the weak ad market, the CBC is looking at a wide swath of options, from selling radio and television assets to adding more American TV programming to its schedule and consolidating local stations.

Airing ads on the CBC's radio services is not being considered, Dube said.

Layoffs are expected to be part of any cost-cutting plan at the CBC. **REUTERS**

Numbers

- The CBC receives more than \$1 billion in government funding a year. Aside from this, the CBC generates about \$600 million a year from commercial activities, including \$340 million from advertising.

ged with a sharp drop in advertising revenue as the recession forces marketers

In brief

DISPUTE Lions Gate Entertainment Corp.'s largest investor, Mark Rachesky, has thrown his support behind the film and television studio as it tries to fend off advances from another shareholder, Carl Icahn, who has criticized the studio's high expenses and threatened to mount a proxy battle. **REUTERS**

The DAILY BUSINESS BUZZ

ScoZinc seeks extension:

Acadian subsidiary ScoZinc Inc Ltd. intends to seek an extension to May 27, 2009, to conclude all ongoing milling operations, complete its remediation work at the Scotia Mine site and prepare a plan of compromise or arrangement to present to its creditors.

Halifax hotel awarded:

The Radisson Suite Hotel Halifax, located in the city's downtown core, has earned two international awards for guest-service excellence from Radisson Hotels and Resorts, the Americas.

Free-trade zone one step closer, party says:

An agreement signed two weeks ago between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick eliminating the dual weighing of trucks is a step in creating a regional free-trade zone encompassing all four Atlantic provinces, says the Atlantica Party.

Madoff accountant charged

WALL STREET An accountant for confessed swindler Bernard Madoff's firm was charged with fraud yesterday after authorities said he pretended to audit the company that cheated thousands in Wall Street's biggest investment scheme.



charges in the fraud. The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filed civil charges against Friehling.

The SEC said in its complaint that Friehling and his firm "did not perform anything remotely resembling an audit" of Madoff's money-management firm or try to confirm that stocks that Madoff had purportedly bought for customers even existed. **REUTERS**

IBM in acquisition talks, sources say

TECH IBM is in talks to buy Sun Microsystems Inc., sources with knowledge of the matter said, a move that could bolster the technology giant against rivals in the high-end computer

server and software markets.

IBM is offering to pay more than \$6.5 billion US, between \$10 and \$11 a share, the Wall Street Journal reported. **REUTERS**



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Cape Breton Screaming Eagles mascot Screech may be forced to sport a slightly different look at tomorrow's QMJHL playoff opener after his newest uniform is suspected to have been stolen from an office at Centre 200 on Tuesday. CAPE BRETON POST

Sports

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Johnston gets the nod

Dartmouth's Mike Johnston has been named head coach of Team Canada for the world under-18 men's hockey championship in Fargo, N.D., from April 9 to 19. The Portland Winterhawks head coach and GM has won four gold medals behind the bench with the national team at various levels.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Huskies finally get their banner

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

The Saint Mary's Huskies are heading to nationals as Atlantic University Sport men's hockey champions.

The Huskies, a good team for a long time, finally have a banner to back it up after ending a seven-year title drought last night in Fredericton, N.B., with a 5-1 win over the New Brunswick Varsity Reds at a sold-out Aitken Centre.

In the third game of the best-of-three series, the Huskies avenged a home-ice loss to the V-Reds in last year's final.

"I don't think it could have been a worse feeling last year, with them beating us in our own rink," said Huskies sophomore defenceman Andrew Hotham. "To come up here and win Game 3 in their rink, it's an unbelievable feeling."

"Now we know how they felt last year."

Hotham, a first-team all-



Members of the Saint Mary's Huskies celebrate winning the Atlantic University Sport men's hockey championship last night in Fredericton, N.B. The Huskies beat the New Brunswick Varsity Reds 5-1 to claim their first title banner in seven seasons.

star, scored the game's first two goals in the first period. John Scott Dickson put the V-Reds on the board early in the second, but Marc Rancourt re-

sponded before the frame ended and Cody Thornton made it 4-1 in the third. Scott Brophy iced it with an empty-netter down the stretch.

The Huskies had lost 5-1 in Game 1 in Fredericton and forced a third game with a 3-2 win in Game 2 at the Forum.

"Quite a series," said

Huskies head coach Trevor Stienburg. "Starting off the way we did up here in Game 1, who would have thought? The guys rose to the occasion."

Teams may have to 'play their way in' to Final 8 in Halifax

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

BASKETBALL Qualifying for the Final 8 could be a lot different by the time the tournament gets back to Halifax in 2011.

A new system has been proposed that would banish wildcard and conference runner-up berths from the Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's basketball championship and hand those spots to winners of three regional

tournaments.

The proposed system would still award berths to conference champions from Atlantic University Sport, Quebec Student Sports Federation, Ontario University Athletics and the Canada West Universities Athletic Association.

It would also continue to award a spot to the host.

The specific details of how the regional tournaments would work are not fully known, but two AUS teams would be among the 12 from across the country

"No one really understood the criteria around the wildcard selections."

AUS executive director Phil Currie

vying for three berths.

The purpose of the change is to reward the strongest teams with spots in the Final 8. There has been heavy debate over whether the current wildcard system accomplishes that.

"The thing I like about it is you've got to play your way in," said AUS execu-

tive director Phil Currie. "No one really understood the criteria around the wildcard selections."

"This takes the mystery out of it. You get on the hardwood in the championship because you played to get there."

And if things went well for the AUS — really well — it could place four

teams at the Final 8 in 2011, which would be a terrific boost to crowds and financial success.

The proposal still needs to be approved by athletic directors at the CIS annual general meeting in June.

The Carleton Ravens have hosted the Final 8 in Ottawa for the past two years and will host it again next March. The tournament had been held at the Metro Centre for the previous 24 years and will make its return in 2011 and 2012.

Lower Sackville native nominated

HOCKEY Lower Sackville's Ben Duffy is up for a pair of trophies at the QMJHL's Golden Puck Awards on April 1.



Ben Duffy

The 16-year-old P.E.I. Rocket forward has been nominated for the RDS Cup for rookie of the year and the Michel Bergeron Trophy as offensive rookie of the year.

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Cubs to honour Jenkins, Maddux

The Chicago Cubs will honour Ferguson Jenkins and Greg Maddux by retiring the No. 31 jersey worn by the two pitchers, the Major League Baseball club announced. Both Jenkins and Maddux claimed Cy Young honours for the Cubs. **REUTERS**

Smaller leagues riding out the storm

As major professional sports leagues across the world feel the chilling effects of the economic recession, two leagues have barely even shivered.

The Canadian Football League and Major League Soccer, considered among the low-rent outfits on the pro sports horizon, have emerged as possibly the best-equipped in North America to weather the economic downturn.

Major League Baseball teams are cutting ticket prices. The National Football League has reduced staff and its teams confront the possibility of many unsold seats. Both the NHL and NBA are looking at salary cap reductions because of reduced revenues. The PGA is trembling as sponsors drop out or cut back.

But at the MLS and CFL, it's as close to business as usual as can be expected in these times.

Things look especially rosy with the CFL, which has teetered at the brink of ruin more than once in the past 20 years.

All eight teams report that they are either on par with last season or ahead of the 2008 pace. In fact, despite a 4-14 season, the

Toronto Argonauts are experiencing an increase in group and corporate sales.

While some NFL teams have frozen or dropped prices, no CFL franchise has followed.

There's plenty of optimism surrounding the league.

The Montreal Alouettes are kicking in \$6 million to expand quaint Percival Molson Stadium by 5,000

seats for next season. There's talk of new stadiums in Hamilton, Winnipeg and Regina and renovation plans in Calgary, Edmonton and B.C.

The MLS, meanwhile, added another team yesterday by expanding to Vancouver while three others were willing to pay the \$35 million US franchise fee. Toronto FC is looking at adding another

8,000 seats to BMO Field to accommodate some of the 14,000 fans on its season-ticket waiting list.

What both leagues have going for them above all else is affordable ticket prices.

"Families still want to get out and have a good experience, but the decision on a \$500 or \$600 season ticket is a lot different than a \$10,000,

\$20,000, \$30,000 season ticket," said CFL commissioner Mark Cohon.

It's the same story for the Toronto FC.

"We're feeling some impact, but people continue to need entertainment and we offer reasonably priced tickets," said Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment COO Tom Anselmi.

There's a historical precedent for this. During

the Great Depression, people flocked to movie theatres, baseball games and horse racing even though many could barely afford to feed their families.

The common denominators were the fact all offered diversions from hard times and all were relatively cheap compared to other forms of entertainment.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Toronto 4 Tampa Bay 3 (SO)
Vancouver 4 Dallas 2
Detroit 3 Philadelphia 2
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New Jersey 3 Chicago 2
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TODAY'S GAMES

Los Angeles at Boston
Montreal at Ottawa
Washington at Tampa Bay
Toronto at Florida
Edmonton at Colorado
St. Louis at Vancouver
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NBA**YESTERDAY'S RESULTS**

Boston 112 Miami 108 (OT)
Charlotte 104 Sacramento 88
New Jersey 115 New York 89
Portland 95 Indiana 85
Denver at Memphis
Orlando at Milwaukee
Chicago at Oklahoma City
Minnesota at New Orleans
Detroit at Houston
Philadelphia at Phoenix
Washington at L.A. Clippers

TODAY'S GAMES

Dallas at Atlanta
Portland at Cleveland
Golden State at L.A. Lakers

MLS**TODAY'S GAMES**

New York at Seattle FC
FRIDAY'S GAMES

No Games Scheduled.

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The Baltimore Ravens chose youth over experience yesterday by signing free-agent cornerback Chris Carr and releasing veteran Samari Rolle. Carr, 25, played for three years with the Oakland Raiders before spending last season with the Tennessee Titans. **REUTERS**

Vancouver awarded MLS franchise

Vancouver won the nod yesterday to join Major League Soccer, a move of officials said demonstrates that the league can continue to grow in North America despite the economic crisis.

The Whitecaps, the reigning first division champion of the United Soccer Leagues, will become the MLS's 17th team in 2011, and a league official said the league could announce an 18th team as soon as the end of the week.

Commissioner Don Garber said the 13-year-old MLS, which is North America's top soccer league, re-

mains financially strong despite the "trying times" the economic slowdown has caused for professional sports around the globe.

"As long as we can get through this economy, as with every American and Canadian business, I think we will emerge stronger, particularly when you have new investors coming in with teams 17 and 18," Garber said.

"Our business model is very economically sound," he said.

Vancouver will pay \$35 million (all figures US) to join the league, down from \$40 million the league had



Major League Soccer commissioner Don Garber, second from left, poses with Whitecaps fans after announcing a 2011 expansion franchise for Vancouver.

reportedly been asking for, but \$5 million above what Seattle paid when it won

the fight to join the league this season.

"In this economy it was

the right, respectful thing to do to show flexibility on the price, but I'll point out it was more than what Seattle paid at a time when our economy was more robust than in any time in our history," Garber said.

Miami and Atlanta were bidding to join the MLS, but pulled out over ownership and stadium issues. That leaves Ottawa, St Louis, Missouri, and Portland, Ore., still in the running. Philadelphia joins the league in 2010.

Garber said Ottawa still had to resolve issues about where its team would play.

Michael Cramer, a veter-

an sports executive who now teaches at New York University, said that despite its expansion, he doubts the MLS can survive in North America, where soccer has struggled for a place in the big-time professional sports spotlight.

Only three of the league's teams are believed to be making money, and Cramer questions how long owners will be willing to take losses as they wait for the sport to gain the popularity.

"Vancouver may survive, but they still need a league to play in," Cramer said.

REUTERS

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METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Living in the muck

Spring may be the harbinger of nicer weather, but with it comes mud

HomeScape

Sylvia Putz

metronews.ca/homescape

Spring is on its way. But before we get there, we'll need to contend with mud, rain and wet snow. And that means we'll need to expend energy and time trying to keep mud out of our homes.

But no discussion dealing with mud is complete until you consider those who revel in mud, those who would wallow in it given the first opportunity. Hogs? Maybe, but hogs generally stay outside of houses. No, I was thinking of your average kid.

Kids love mud. They'll carry it into your house not only on their boots, but on their hands, on their butts or knees if they happen to fall into the slush, on their elbows, or in their hair, and on their faces. There is an astounding variety of mud games — paint yourself with mud, get stuck in the mud, make mud pies, build mud dams, slide down fast-melting muddy ice piles. I remember playing with some gusto some of those games myself.

**Kids love mud.
They'll carry it into your house not only on their boots, but on their hands, on their butts or knees if they happen to fall into the slush, on their elbows, or in their hair, and on their faces.**

But unfortunately, as an adult, it also brings something much less pleasant: Cleaning chores. At this time of year, the jumble of muddy boots by the door, sitting in a puddle of melting dirty slush, is a depressingly common sight. And then there are the coats, mud-smeared and haphazardly slung over the post at the bottom of the stairs. And wait, what is that pile lying in the slush? The coats that have fallen off the post, naturally. And those muddy footprints



If you have kids, at this time of year be warned that they most certainly will come home and try to track mud throughout your house.

leading from the slush pile to other parts of the house?

It's enough to put me in a dark mood, to say the least!

To keep your sanity, remember that the muddy season is temporary. But while it's here, here are some hints to make your life easier:

- First of all, remember to place mats both inside and outside the door of the main entry, and consider a boot scraper if you live near a major mud zone, such as near construction, or messy road repairs;

- Keep a broom near the entry door to periodically clear away the dirt that may otherwise get tracked into the house;

- If you have an older home without much closet space, keep the front entrance area tidy and uncluttered. If you've only got a little space, a closed wardrobe can work wonderfully, as can a series of attractive storage boxes. Or, consider building a small closet area near the front door but hidden from view. I've seen a

very successful coat and boot storage built under the stairs to the second story, or on the landing of the stairs going to the basement;

- Keep boot trays underneath boots in the boot storage area. These will contain muddy water, and can be easily cleaned when necessary;

- If you've got too many

coats and jackets to fit into the front entrance area, consider splitting the clothing and boots and storing some at the front and some at a side or back door area. For example, good coats and boots can be kept at the front of the house in a wardrobe, while everyday or children's clothing can be kept on hooks and shelves at the side or back door;

- Of course, the best case scenario is a mud room that has lots of room to store coats, boots, scarves, and sports equipment. Open lockers, one for each member of the family, with hooks and shelves are a great idea. And be sure to finish the floor in a surface

Some other ideas

- Include a bench in your mud room or entry area. That way, boots and shoes can be comfortably removed and taken to their storage area. Consider combining a bench with a storage area, perhaps as a series of closed boxes (one for each member of the family) with upholstered tops.
- Include waterproof slippers and socks near the bench, so no one has to walk through the wet area.
- Include a place for old towels so that wet and muddy messes can be wiped, plus a rack to dry towels and wet articles of clothing.
- A tall planter can be a lovely accent and a great place to store umbrellas.

—SYLVIA PUTZ

ing that hides dirt and can take moisture and lots of cleaning.

If you're building or renovating, combining the mud room with the laundry area and a sink makes a lot of sense.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; putz@arrestingdesign.com.



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Food

For healthy baking, add dried fruit, such as dates, figs, dried cranberries, apricots, and raisins to increase the fibre content.

BARB HOLLAND/FOR METRO CANADA

Sweet

At the same time, use these fruits' natural sweetness to replace some of the sugar in a recipe.



EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Liquid Assets

Peter Rockwell



metronews.ca/liquidassets

Spring flings

Break out the fancy stemware; tomorrow is the first day of spring so, at least according to the calendar, we can officially raise a glass to the end of winter.

In whites, the juice from the viognier and torrontés grapes make for great late March drinking as does Old World riesling. The 2005 Lingenfelder Estate Bird Label Riesling (\$16.98 - \$18.99) is a well-rounded sipper from Germany's Pfalz region. Distinctively off-dry, it has a uni-

versal appeal.

Turning to reds, those from France's Beaujolais and Italy's Valpolicella regions are ideal for laidback contemplation. A great alternative are wines made with the grenache grape — especially in a blend à la Down Under. The 2007 Rosemount Estates Diamond Cellars Grenache Shiraz (\$12.95 - \$15.96) is a relaxing Aussie with a flowing trail of cranberry fruit that makes you wish it was warm enough to lounge out on your back deck.



Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Muffins with less stuffin'

À la carte

Barb Holland



metronews.ca/alacarte

Healthy baking is possible. Here is one of my favourite muffin recipes, along with some tips to increase fibre, reduce fat and calories. Not to mention, enjoy fresh home-baked flavour and freshness.

Orange Date Muffins

These are loaded with fibre and they taste good too. Look for soft-pitted dates in the produce section rather than the firm pressed dates in the baking aisle. Makes 12 muffins.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1-1/2 cups (375 ml) whole-wheat flour
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) brown sugar
- 1-1/2 tsp (7 ml) baking powder
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) baking soda
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) salt
- 1 orange, with peel, cut into pieces (remove seeds)
- 1 cup (250 ml) pitted dates
- 3/4 cup (175 ml) buttermilk
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) canola oil
- 1 egg

METHOD:

Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Line a muffin pan with non-stick baking cups or spray with nonstick spray.

In medium bowl, combine flour, brown sugar, baking powder, soda and salt.



Alter muffin recipes to make them lower fat, higher fibre.

Toss orange, dates, buttermilk, oil and egg in blender and process until oranges and dates are well chopped (you want some texture). Stir into dry mixture just until blended.

Scoop or spoon batter into muffins cups. Bake 18 to 20 minutes or until toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Cool pan on wire rack 5 minutes. Remove muffins from pan to cool completely.

Healthy Baking Tips:

- Increase the fibre and nutritional content by using whole wheat flour, which contains bran. To make it whole grain, use either stone ground whole wheat or try adding 2 tbsp (30 ml) wheat germ to each 1 cup (250 ml) of regular whole wheat flour.

• Use heart-healthy canola oil which has the least amount of saturated fat and a very mild flavour. Canola oil can be used in muffins, cakes and cookies. In a muffin recipe, reduce the amount of oil in your recipe to 1/4 cup (60 ml) and use low fat ingredients such as applesauce, mashed banana, juice, yogurt, buttermilk (1%), low fat or skim milk to replace the remaining oil and liquid.

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.



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Dolce & Gabbana make-up

Italian designer duo Dolce & Gabbana, among Milan's top fashion names, are branching out from dresses to lipsticks, launching a make-up line they say they have been dreaming of for years. **REUTERS**

Style



EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Jacobs leads CFDA noms

June 15 could end up being a big night for Marc Jacobs judging by the number of Council of Fashion Designers of America awards he's up for that night. He's up against Narciso Rodriguez and Rodarte's Kate and Laura Mulleavy for the Women's wear Designer of the Year prize in addition to his nomination for Accessory Designer of the Year. He'll also be honored with the International Award for his track record at Louis Vuitton.

KENYA HUNT/METRO WORLD NEWS

Guys still call the shots in fashion

Canada's top designers 'a band of brothers'

Why do most of Canada's top designers pee standing up? The answer is obvious — because they're men.

It was hard not to notice at a Holt Renfrew event this week designed specifically to showcase the best in Canadian fashion design that, apart from the models, there wasn't a woman among them.

The retailer's vaunted group of six included Montrealer Denis Gagnon, rising star Jeremy Laing, workaholic Mikhael Kale, menswear dynamo Philip Sparks and the creative duo behind Greta Constantine — Kirk Pickersgill and Stephen Wong. The event was meant to kick off Toronto Fashion Week, where, incidentally, just a third of designers showing are women. Even Holts' boys club is bewildered by the dearth of female talent.

"We were just saying, 'Oh my God, we're all boys!'" Kale notes. "It's like the band of brothers, you know."

Kale, who says he works on three and a half hours of sleep a night, notes he has few responsibilities outside of his sewing studio, which is where he lives. He's not married and does not own a pet.

"No spouse, no kids, no

time!" he says. "Have you seen the garments? The detail is insane!"

So what do these successful, youngish men possess that their female counterparts lack?

"Not to be mean, but, we want more," says Pickersgill, a fan of 18-hour days. "That group of us, we all thrive outside of Toronto. We want to be with the big boys."

"A lot of my female contemporaries who are designing clothes, they're sort of their own muse. It becomes a bit more centralized around who they are as opposed to a larger audience."

Designer David Dixon

Veteran David Dixon, who's designed a collection of women's clothing inspired by Barbie for the Bay, offers another theory.

"The approach is different, I think, between male and female designers," he says. "A lot of my female contemporaries who are designing clothes, they're sort of their own muse. It becomes a bit more centralized around who they are as opposed to a larger audience."

For an industry so stereotypically feminine, it seems surprisingly sexist.

Designer Judy Cornish, who created the successful label Comrags 25 years ago

with Joyce Gunhouse, has her suspicions.

Is there a bias in the business community about who can go the distance?

Cornish wonders. "If you're going to back someone, are you going to back someone who's going to have children, bow out and quit?"

So does it really come down to maternal clocks and who functions best when sleep-deprived?

Jeremy Laing, who designs for princesses in Saudi Arabia, professionals in Hong Kong and girls in Dallas, doesn't think so. He has a spouse and a pet.

For him, success is knowing what sells. "I try to think of a lot of different kinds of women in a lot of different kinds of places to make sure that I'm not sacrificing accessibility for a kind of gay runway fantasy," he says. "Now, especially with the dictates of the economy, is not the time for that."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mrs. Harper gets mooned at runway show

The tiny butch cop from Corner Gas mooned the prime minister's wife earlier this week in a historic moment for Canadians.

"I'm so excited!" Laureen Harper exclaimed. "It's my first (Toronto) fashion show."

Wearing a Sunny Choi pantsuit and bright red lipstick, Harper joined hundreds of other stylish guests at LG Fashion Week for the Heart Truth Fashion Show, sponsored by the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Canada and the Canadian fashion industry.

The event which featured 20 celebrity "models" wearing red dresses by Canada's top designers.

But it was the actress Tara Spencer-Nairn who may



Tara Spencer-Nairn showed off more than expected at Toronto Fashion Week.

have made the biggest impression of the night.

Skipping down the runway in a flirty, peasant-style frock by Damzels in this Dress, Spencer-Nairn struck

a pose that left little to the imagination.

Her decision to wear racy black bloomers with her garter-belt stockings was last minute. "I said, 'I'm gonna bring the bloomers just in case I fall because I don't want to, you know, scare anybody with a bare bottom,'" Spencer-Nairn explained.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

FlareFashion

Lisa Tant

Read the blog at metronews.ca/flarefashion



Clockwise from top left: designers Kirk Pickersgill, Mikhael Kale, Stephen Wong, Philip Sparks, Jeremy Laing and Denis Gagnon.



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Christina Ricci is set to tie the knot. The actress recently became engaged to her boyfriend, actor Owen Benjamin, her rep confirmed to Us Weekly. Ricci and Benjamin have been dating publicly since November. METRO WORLD NEWS

Top choice



Natalie Portman is set to appear in Thor. She is director Kenneth Branagh's top choice to play the female lead in the upcoming Marvel blockbuster about the Norse warrior god. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

MSTRKRFT drops new beats

MSTRKRFT

Album: Fist of God
Label: Last Gang/Universal
Rating:



song works well on its own, but about halfway through the disc the frenetic keys and blistering drums get repetitive. It's a decent listen, but they're not done learning yet.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Attack In Black

Album: Years (by one thousand finger tips)
Label: Dinealone Records
Rating:

ATTACK IN BLACK'S Marriage was an album that deserved a lot more praise than it got. The Welland, Ont., band's brand of high energy guitar rock was perhaps too melodic, too catchy, to win the hearts of the in-



LAST GANG RECORDS PHOTO

Fist of God is the latest album from Toronto dance duo MSTRKRFT.

crowd. Rightly or wrongly, Attack In Black has changed directions in its ambitious new 16-track CD, Years (by one thousand fingertips), sounding more like a Toronto alt-

country band of poets than the little brothers of Alexisonfire. It's almost as if the band just discovered '70s-era Neil Young. (listen to the song Birmingham). Which, of course, is not a

Music Reviews

music@metronews.ca

bad thing, especially if you have the chops to pull it off. Attack In Black definitely does. Hopefully, the band realizes that the "in-crowd" never really did matter.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Bishop Allen

Album: GRRR...
Label: Dead Oceans
Rating:

IF TV AND movies have done anything lately, it's introduce the masses to great indie rock (Death Cab and OC, The Shins and Garden State).

Will Brooklyn's Bishop Allen, who had a cameo in Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist, find Hollywood-initiated success? Not if their third album is any indication. While it's a pleasant indie pop listen, it's not meaty enough to resonate in a major way. That said, fans of light, infectious choruses and easy-to-sing lyrics will want to give it a spin. It's a solid summer disc, but not much more than that.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

On the web

There's more online at metronews.ca/music:

- Read reviews of new music from Willie Nelson and Madeleine Peyroux
- Links to this week's reviewed music

critics' corner

Know Your Mushrooms

Ron Mann ("Grass") applies his cheeky filmmaking style to the fungus among us with this documentary, which is packed full of fun facts about mushrooms — from the mundane to the magic kind — and the people who love them. 10 PM on BRAVO



Springbreak.09

Yes, it's still cold up here, and most of us not in college aren't in a position to get away to someplace warm. But we can enjoy a vicarious beach party via this new special, in which veejay Tim Deegan and the members of the pop group Girlicious travel to Cancun. Sun, sand, surf, scantily clad bodies — need we say more? 7 PM on MM

Doc Zone

The jet plane has changed the way we eat — and we're not talking about airline meals. The new two-part documentary "Food" looks at how Westerners' relationship with edibles has changed. The growth of air travel has exposed us to exotic foods from around the globe, while our busier lifestyles have created a demand for food we don't cook. Part 2 looks at the battle between "big food" and the "buy local" activists for space on our plates. 8 PM on CBC

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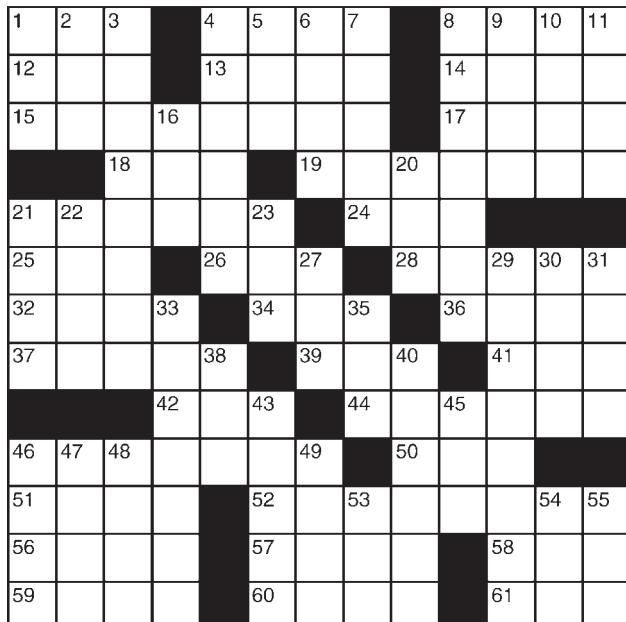
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201	201	201	M1	Out of Control (7:45) In the Valley of Elah ★★ (2007, Drama) Tommy Lee Jones.					Savage Grace ★★ (2007, Drama)			
48	23	23	OLN	American Gladiators	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker "Buck & RJ"		Bounty Hunter	
51	51	51	PEACH	Seinfeld	Friends	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Crocodile Dun.	
206	206	206	PIX	(5:50) Apollo 13 ★★ (1995)			(8:20) Night Passage (1957, Western)		Little Nikita ★★ (1988, Drama)			
67	67	67	RDI	RDI en direct	RDI en direct	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)	Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	
39	39	39	SHOW	Wife Swap		The Outer Limits	Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	Crank	
40	40	40	SL									

Today
Rain
4° / -7°Friday
Partly cloudy
0° / -9°Saturday
Partly sunny
1° / -7°BEAT THE COLD & FLU SEASON
Your Cold & Flu Report is available at theweathernetwork.comFor more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

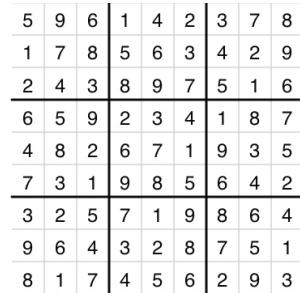
Crossword across

- 1 Existed 25 Oklahoma city
4 A bit of a shock 26 Round Table
8 Talon 28 Cunning
12 Inventor Whitney 32 Wire measures
13 Do as you're told 34 Sailor
14 Timber wolf 36 Baby carriage
15 Crony 37 Tea type
17 Oft-dunked 39 Rose, at first
treat 41 Eggs (Pref.)
18 Preceding 42 Started
19 Actress' cameo 44 Cue
role, maybe 46 Piano note
21 Poltroon 50 Greek conso-

Crossword down

- 1 Film director Craven 29 Burr role
2 "The Greatest" 30 Stromboli spillage
3 Pavement 31 Jannings of silents
4 Wags 33 Joins with a lead-tin alloy
5 Sapporo sash 35 Clear the tables
6 Walesa of Poland 38 Conger, for one
7 Youngsters 40 Word with jacket or
8 Seal theatre
9 Traditional tales 43 Liabilities
10 First victim 45 Astronaut Grissom
11 54-Across' comment 46 Huge, in ads
16 Historic time 47 Persia, now
20 Bad hairpiece 48 Gossip
21 Too theatrical 49 Remedy
22 Garfield's pal 53 Regret
23 Investigate 54 "What's up, —?"
27 Plagiarize 55 Swelled head

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

Find today's answers + play more games at metronews.ca

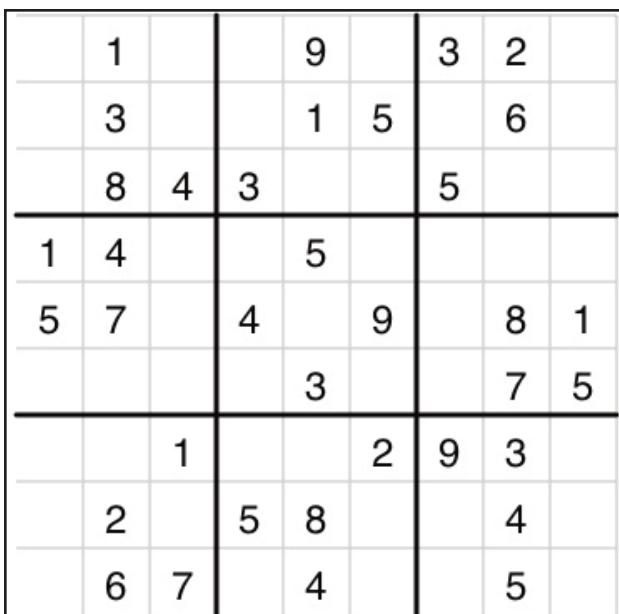
SUDOKU SOLVE TIME:

Under 13 min Genius
13-17 min Scholar17-21 min Smart
21-25 min Not bad
25+ min Keep practising

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



Horoscopes

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



You've made an error in judgment. An executive doesn't speak your language. An odd couple talks about changing the world.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



Spiteful feelings make for an uncomfortable meeting. Your strategy is a controversial topic. Controlling your feelings leads to wonderful news.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22

Cheer up by discussing the dating game. Remarkable pleasure creates a wild diversion. A flaky parent stumbles onto a solution.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



A loved one's exhaustion will lift. A walk will do wonders for a caring person. Having second thoughts promises a fresh start.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



The arrival of a risk-taking friend causes confusion. Whiny people will avoid doing chores. Helping someone out will bring you a windfall.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



A prudish woman questions your preferences. A nearby object has a strange effect. A guilty person needs medical attention.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



Exhilarating prospects are notable for their thrills. An angry man is forced to have some fun. Some secrets are revealed due to a scandal.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



A project is suspended by a worried person. The wrong guy is asked to make a job change. More adventures are coming soon.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



A man talks of a viable scheme. You'll get frustrated while on the phone. Be yielding but keep your mind clear.

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WORDY GURDY

- Illegal mound motion chat (1)
- Angry, snappish office honcho (1)
- Curtain form (1)
- Unable-to-decide singer Lena (1)
- Old-timers' cheap cigars (2)
- Top-professional-level minister (2)
- Barely walking child's pamperers (2)

BY TRICKY RICKY KANE
Every answer is a rhyming pair of words (like FAT CAT and DOUBLE TROUBLE), and they will fit in the letter squares. The number after the definition tells you how many syllables in each word.

ANSWERS
1. FOOGIES STOGIES 6. MASTER PASTOR 7. TOP HORN
2. BACK TALK 3. CROSS BOSS 4. DRAPED SHAPES 5. TORN HORNE
6. FOOGIES STOGIES 7. CROSSES 8. DRAPED SHAPES 9. TORN HORNE
10. FOOGIES STOGIES 11. BACK TALK 12. CROSS BOSS 13. DRAPED SHAPES 14. TORN HORNE
15. FOOGIES STOGIES 16. BACK TALK 17. CROSS BOSS 18. DRAPED SHAPES 19. TORN HORNE
20. FOOGIES STOGIES 21. BACK TALK 22. CROSS BOSS 23. DRAPED SHAPES 24. TORN HORNE
25. FOOGIES STOGIES 26. BACK TALK 27. CROSS BOSS 28. DRAPED SHAPES 29. TORN HORNE
30. FOOGIES STOGIES 31. BACK TALK 32. CROSS BOSS 33. DRAPED SHAPES 34. TORN HORNE
35. FOOGIES STOGIES 36. BACK TALK 37. CROSS BOSS 38. DRAPED SHAPES 39. TORN HORNE
40. FOOGIES STOGIES 41. BACK TALK 42. CROSS BOSS 43. DRAPED SHAPES 44. TORN HORNE
45. FOOGIES STOGIES 46. BACK TALK 47. CROSS BOSS 48. DRAPED SHAPES 49. TORN HORNE
50. FOOGIES STOGIES 51. BACK TALK 52. CROSS BOSS 53. DRAPED SHAPES 54. TORN HORNE
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296. FOOGIES STOGIES 297. BACK TALK 298. CROSS BOSS 299. DRAPED SHAPES 300. TORN HORNE

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18 entertainment



Jessica Lange was extremely lucky yesterday after taking a fall at her Minnesota cabin. Family sources tell TMZ the actress grabbed for a railing that was not secure, and fell over breaking her shoulder and collarbone and dislocating her arm. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz



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Katy loves Queen ... a lot

PEOPLE Katy Perry wants a tattoo of Freddie Mercury's face, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The I Kissed a Girl singer wants to pay homage to the late Queen frontman by getting a giant design of his head inked on her back.

She said: "I nearly got a huge tattoo of Freddie Mercury's face on my back a few years ago. It's probably for the best that I didn't get it done, but I still want to do it." The

24-year-old singer has previously named the eccentric star as her musical idol because of his flamboyant personality.

She explained: "Freddie Mercury was — and remains — my biggest influence. The combination of his sarcastic approach to writing lyrics and his 'I don't give a f—' attitude really inspired my music."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Sarah goes psychic?

PEOPLE Sarah Jessica Parker hopes visits to a psychic will improve her marriage, according to Grazia magazine.

The Sex and the City star has reportedly been shelling out \$105 per visit to Psychic Serena to heal the bond with husband Matthew Broderick after claims he was unfaithful.

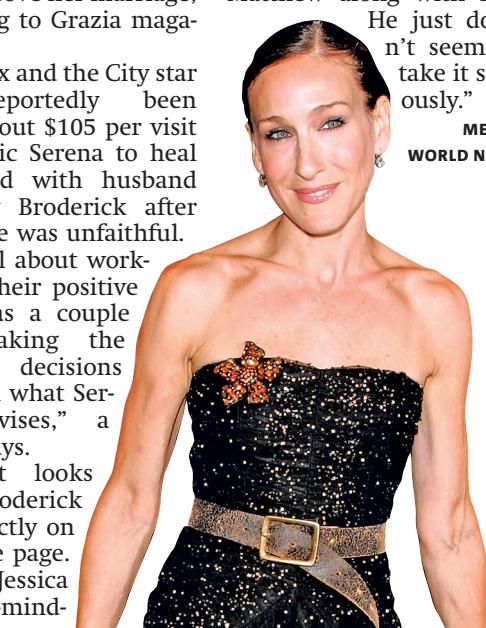
"It's all about working on their positive energy as a couple and making the right decisions based on what Serena advises," a source says.

But it looks like Broderick isn't exactly on the same page. "Sarah Jessica is open-mind-

ed about seeing a psychic, but she doesn't take Matthew along with her.

He just doesn't seem to take it seriously."

METRO WORLD NEWS



reportedly worried the lives of her sons Sean Preston, three, and Jayden James, two, could be in danger following the menacing messages.

A source said: "Britney received some anonymous death threats over the phone and in the mail, and her worst fear is a kidnap plot against Sean or Jayden. She's been having terrible nightmares ever since then and she wakes up in the middle of the night

crying out for her boys.

"She told her head of security and he thinks it's a lone stalker. Her paranoia has reached fever pitch and she's wracked with fear," femalefirst.co.uk quotes the source as saying.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



GETTY IMAGES

Jacko set for world tour?

CAREER After all 50 of his scheduled London shows this summer exceeded expectations and sold out in a matter of hours, Michael Jackson is reportedly considering expanding his farewell foray.

The former King of Pop is expected to announce similar long-stay engage-

ments in New York and Los Angeles, according to Perez Hilton, and may even embark on a world tour.

METRO WORLD NEWS



Emily's on-screen double timing

CAREER Emily Blunt found it "strange" kissing Tom Hanks and his son, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The actress shared a love scene with the elder Hanks in Charlie Wilson's War and

also kissed his son, Colin, in The Great Buck Howard. "I was before dad," Colin said. "Without sounding chauvinistic and possessive of her — I had her first ... Emily did say ... 'It's very strange to kiss both the son and the father.'"

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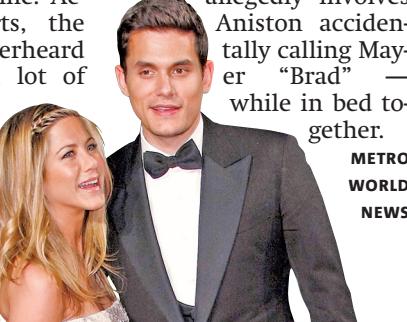
Big Sheen sisters

Charlie Sheen and wife Brooke Mueller welcomed twins Max and Bob on March 14, but the proud parents aren't the only ones jumping for joy: Sheen and ex Denise Richards' daughters Sam, five, and Lola, three, are excited to be big sisters. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

**Celebrity Buzz****John planning tell-all?**

RUMOUR John Mayer is considering dishing dirt now that he's split again from Jennifer Aniston, according to Star magazine. According to reports, the singer has been overheard saying he's got a lot of great material for a tell-all book.

"John just can't keep his mouth shut," a Mayer pal tells the magazine. "He's telling friends



METRO WORLD NEWS

that he's thinking of going public with all their juicy secrets."

And one of those secrets allegedly involves Aniston accidentally calling Mayer "Brad" — while in bed together.

ADVICE Vince Vaughn, let your pal Jon Favreau be the first one to welcome you to the "day shift," people.com is suggesting.

Favreau, who has been married with children for a number of years, talked to People about his friend and costar's recent engagement at the L.A. premiere of *I Love You, Man*, and what that means for Vaughn's lifestyle.

"Vince has been single for a number of years and we've been on different schedules," Favreau said. "He was sort of on the night shift; I was on the day shift, living on opposite ends of town."

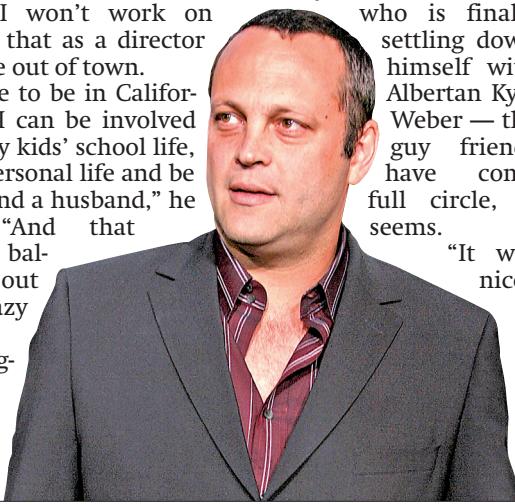
And, he admits, as he settled down, "town" got smaller. "My trick really so far has been to work in town. I won't work on movies that as a director take me out of town.

"I like to be in California so I can be involved with my kids' school life, their personal life and be a dad and a husband," he said. "And that helps balance out the crazy hours and bigger than life career

that I'm lucky to have."

As for his own history with Vaughn — the 38-year-old ladies' man who is finally settling down himself with Albertan Kyla Weber — the guy friends have come full circle, it seems.

"It was nice



to work with him on *Couples Retreat*, and that movie is about couples, and it was interesting to explore that with him after our first experience with *Swingers*. And that was about being single. So, I think as our lives change, the subject matter of our movies change too, reflecting our lives," Favreau said.

He added: "I wish Vince the best. He's always been a smart guy. He's always been decisive at everything he does in his life and his career. I'm always impressed with his choices and the way that he goes about things."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Guy on the rebound?

RUMOUR This is one way to move on. Recently divorced Guy Ritchie was spotted having dinner in London earlier this week with Elle Macpherson. The reportedly enjoyed each other's

company at the Knotting Hill Brasserie, staying until after midnight. They then left separately to avoid being photographed together, according to just jared.com.

METRO WORLD NEWS

**LeAnn's secret affair?**

RUMOUR LeAnn Rimes is reportedly having an affair with Eddie Cibrian, alleges femalefirst.co.uk

The website reports the 26-year-old star — who married her former backing dancer Dean Sheremet in 2002 — has been spotted kissing her married co-star after getting close to him on the set of TV movie *Northern Lights*,



according to Us Weekly magazine. Security camera footage from Laguna Beach hotspots Mosun and Club M shows the two holding hands and kissing on a romantic dinner date. The couple also reportedly met for a three-hour tryst at the Malibu Beach Inn on March 14, the website also alleges.

Cibrian — who has re-

Anna's funny life philosophy

PEOPLE Anna Faris has the perfect solution for dealing with challenging situations: Find the humour in everything, people.com reports.

"I'm embarrassed on almost a daily basis," Faris, 32, tells Self magazine for its April issue. "You sort of have to suck it up sometimes."

Take, for instance, when fans approach The House Bunny star.

cently ap-peared in the shows *Ugly Betty* and *Samantha Who?* — married model Brandi Glanville in 2001 and the couple have two young sons, aged five and 23 months.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Often, she says, the conversations are less than tactful.

"They say stuff like, 'You're so much shorter in person,'" Faris says. "Or 'Oh, my god, you look just like that girl, but you are a lot prettier than she is.'

"You have to grin and bear it," Faris says. "I might say in return, 'I know I looked skinnier in *The House Bunny*, but thanks to my diet of beer and doughnuts, I'm back to my fightin' weight!'"

The funny actress says she developed her sense of humour over the years after being raised in a strict environment with conservative parents.

"Anything with a V-neck was forbidden," she says of her regi-ment-ed

childhood.

In fact, Faris still strives for her parents' approval. "Even though I'm now in my 30s, I still have my parents sort of haunting me to 'act appropriate' and 'have good manners,'" she says, noting that she's found a way to deal with the issue. "I buy my mom off," Faris jokes. "With the *Scary Movies*, I started giving her Louis Vuitton handbags. "Now she wants a villa in Tuscany," she says. "I've created a monster!"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

**Timberlake Tequila on way**

CAREER Looks like Justin Timberlake is exploring yet another profession.

The singer, actor, restauranteur investor and clothing designer is reportedly interested in getting into the tequila business, according to Page Six. Timberlake recently stopped by a Mexican distillery, where he was caught on video sampling the goods.

"This was one of his many meetings over the last two years in development of his tequila business," his rep tells the newspaper.

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